

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Works & Process Announces San Francisco Opera: THE MONKEY KING (孙悟空) by Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang with Diane Paulus

Company: Works & Process

Venue: The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Location: NEW YORK, NY

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Works & Process at the Guggenheim presents San Francisco Opera: *THE MONKEY KING* (孙悟空) by Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang with Diane Paulus, on March 9, 2025 at the Peter B. Lewis Theater, 1071 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10128 at 7pm. Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased at <https://www.worksandprocess.org/calendar/works-and-process-at-the-guggenheim-sfo-the-monkey-king>.

Go behind the scenes with composer Huang Ruo, librettist David Henry Hwang and director Diane Paulus as they discuss their newest collaboration, *THE MONKEY KING* (孙悟空), with moderator Ken Smith. Hear excerpts ahead of the production's November 2025 world premiere at San Francisco Opera.

Commissioned by San Francisco Opera in partnership with the Chinese Heritage Foundation of Minnesota, the work is drawn from the opening chapter of *Journey to the West* (16th c.), a Ming Dynasty novel widely considered one of China's four greatest literary classics. *THE MONKEY KING* follows the ambition of its title character, who once born from a stone, wreaks havoc in the heavens in a bid for immortality. Through cleverness and determination, he wins battles against warriors and proves himself to the gods who doubted him. In recent years the mythic hero's popularity has exploded through movies and animated film, television and video games.

Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang have been collaborators for more than a decade. They reunite in the Works & Process series for the fourth time this spring, following previous discussions on *American Soldier*, *M. Butterfly* and *The Rift*. Huang Ruo's first appearance in a Works & Process event was for *Dr. Sun Yat-sen*. The creative team for *THE MONKEY KING*, which unites the disciplines of opera, dance, puppetry and stagecraft, also includes scenic design and puppetry by Basil Twist, who collaborated with Huang Ruo on *Book of Mountains and Seas*. For more information, visit <https://sfopera.com/monkeyking>.

Spring 2025 Opera Series made possible by Eugene and Jean Stark.

Works & Process Lead Donors

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Additional support provided by Jody and John Arnhold, Jeff and Susan Campbell, Cate Caruso, Stuart H. Coleman and Meryl Rosofsky, Duke Dang and Charles E. Rosen, Lucy and Philip Dobrin, Elizabeth Sharp Edens and Wes Edens, The Fanwood Foundation, Agnes Gund, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, Denise and Andrew Saul, Randall Sharp, and the Simian Foundation.

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About Works & Process

Championing performing artists and their creative process for each step from studio to stage, Works & Process features artists both those from the world's largest organizations and emerging new talent. Works & Process amplifies performing arts traditions that transcend the stage, and encourage audiences to spectate, participate, and continue the conversation beyond the stage. Works & Process programs blend artist discussion and performance highlights, with post-performance receptions at the Guggenheim Museum and beyond. During the summer, Works & Process curates and presents free outdoor dance programs with Manhattan West and City Parks Foundation's SummerStage. Works & Process Artists-in-Residence are provided with commissions and made-to-measure LaunchPAD creative residencies that are fully funded and sequenced, offering 24/7 studio availability, on-site housing, health insurance enrollment access, industry-leading residency fees, and transportation to fifteen residency partners across MA, NJ, NY, and VT. Works and Process, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3)

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Schedule
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